

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

RE: Leslie Brothers Lumber Company, Cowan, Webster County

DATE INSPECTED: January 16, 1990

INSPECTORS: Stan Moskal, West Virginia Department of Natural  
Resources, Division of Waste Management

Ed King, West Virginia Department of Natural  
Resources, Division of Water Resources

Nick Lewis, West Virginia Department of Natural  
Resources, Division of Water Resources

DATE PREPARED: January 18, 1990

PREPARED BY: Stan Moskal, Division of Waste Management

On January 16, 1990 at 11:45 pm this inspector along with Ed King and Nick Lewis, District III, Field Operations Branch Water Resources investigated a complaint at the Leslie Brothers Lumber Company in Webster County. The complaintant reported excessive spillage of copper chrome at this facility's wood treating area.

Upon our arrival we met Mr. Larry Leslie, co-owner of the operations. We explained the purpose of our visit and he agreed to answer any questions we might have.

This facility is located on a former strip bench and has one pressure vessel used to treat wood. It has been in operation for approximately four (4) years. Mr. Leslie informed us that he does not use arsenic due to drippage on the ground but will use it after a drip pad, storage pad and associated roofs have been constructed this year. The sump used at the pressure vessel is approximately one-half of a 55-gallon drum. During our visit, the sump was full of sludge and overflowing. There is an approximate gap of four (4) feet between the pressure vessel and drip track which allows for drippage of solution to contaminate the soil. Design of the drip track allows for drippage from treated wood that over hangs the drip track to contaminate the soil. There is also another half 55-gallon drum at the beginning of the drip track used to collect material from the track. It too is overflowing and contaminating to soil. The sludges in both half drums are placed in drums and shipped as hazardous.

There is an additional sump which appears to be a hole in the ground with wooden forms around it. This sump is used to collect the water from the pressure vessel after the process is completed and reused. We noted that this solution is permitted to flow to a

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low area where we also noted a greenish color to the area. (Also note that treated wood is stored nearby). Approximately 10 to 20 feet from this low area is the facility's fresh water supply for the treatment process.

Another area of concern was noted approximately 40 feet from the drip pad and 20 feet from the low lying area of water. Here another depression containing green/yellow water was observed. This area is used for storing treated wood and at times untreated wood. Another concern over this area is that water was observed flowing from this area over the hill to a stream believed to be Dennison Run.

We explained our concerns to Mr. Leslie and informed him that he should begin taking steps to address these problems.

NOTE: See attached photos with descriptions.

#### CONCERNS

The following concerns were noted:

1. Excessive drippage of treating solution to soil.
2. Small sump which is not emptied and is spilling over.
3. Facility built on strip bench which allows for deeper penetration of solution into soil and possibly groundwater.
4. Drip track too narrow to accommodate charge widths.
5. Water from one area being allowed to leave site and flow into permanent stream.
6. Possibility of fresh water supply (not potable) being contaminated from low area.
7. While not mentioned in report, management of hazardous waste in drums questionable.

Recommend that inspector assigned to this facility conduct another CEI accompanied by enforcement personnel or section leader, and that appropriate enforcement action be initiated.

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PHOTO DESCRIPTIONS

- 1) Photo illustrates the opening to the pressure vessel, sump at its opening and another sump at the edge of the drip pad, both are full. Also, note the colored soil in the area.
- 2) Photo illustrates depressed area with ditch from the collection sump to the lower left of the picture.
- 3&4) Photos illustrate the second area of depression with discolored water. To the right of the photo the water was observed to migrate off-site.
- 5&6) Photos illustrate sump area with wooden frame. Blue hose is used to pump water out of the system once treatment is completed and pump water back into the system when a new load is placed into the pressure vessel. Top right hand of the photo illustrates part of fresh water pond.

**ORIGINAL**  
**(Red)**

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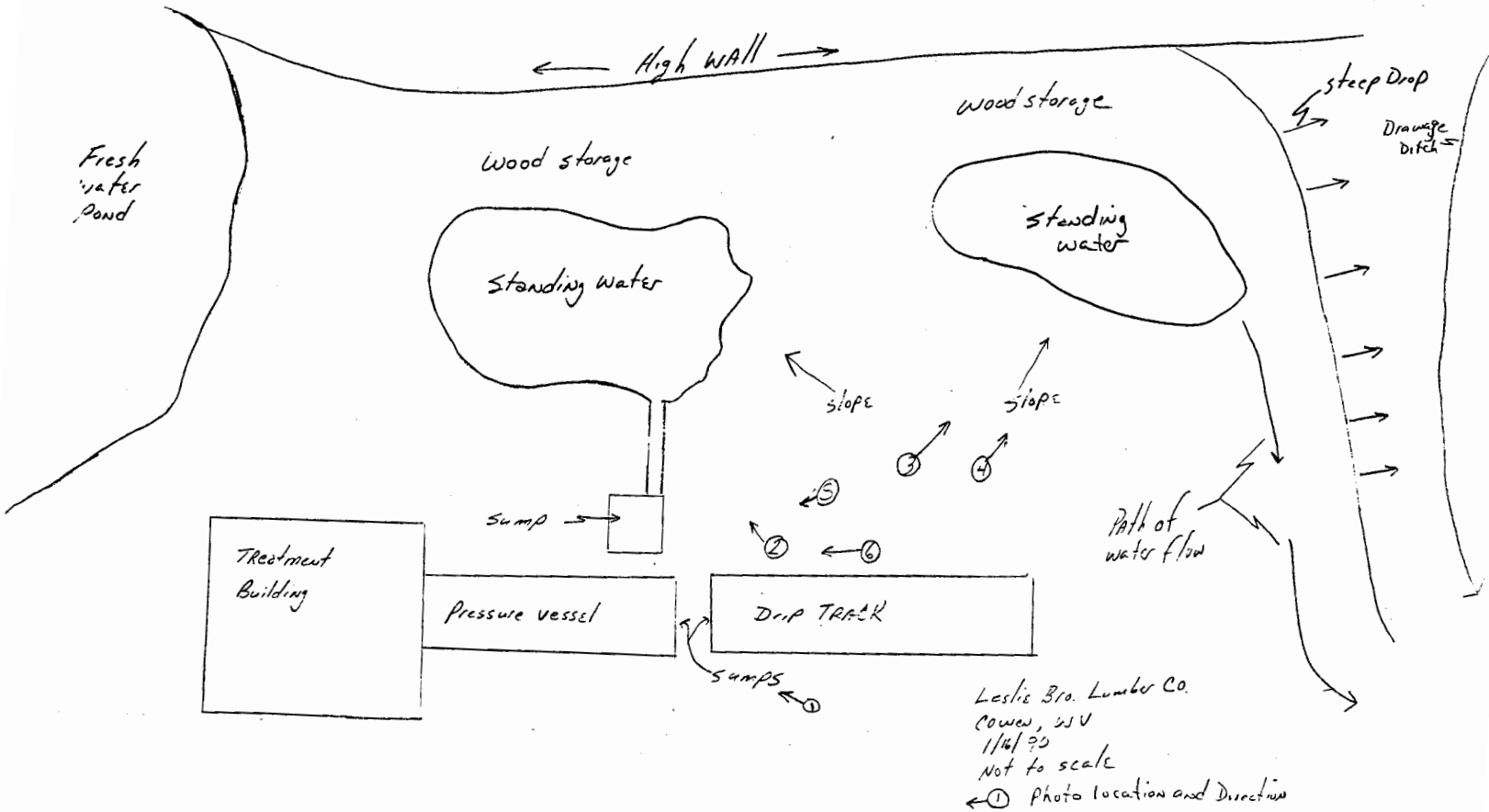
Photographer's signature Steve Marshall

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|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Photo number                                   | 6. Weather                    |
| *2. Film description (type, ASA, expiration date) | 7. Date/Time                  |
| *3. Focal length of lens used                     | 8. Location                   |
| *4. F-Stop, Shutter speed                         | 9. Brief description of photo |
| 5. Lighting conditions                            |                               |

\*Not necessary for instant development film

FILM TURNED OVER TO \_\_\_\_\_ FOR DEVELOPING ON \_\_\_\_\_  
PHOTOGRAPHS WERE RECEIVED ON \_\_\_\_\_ FROM DEVELOPER \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL  
(Red)

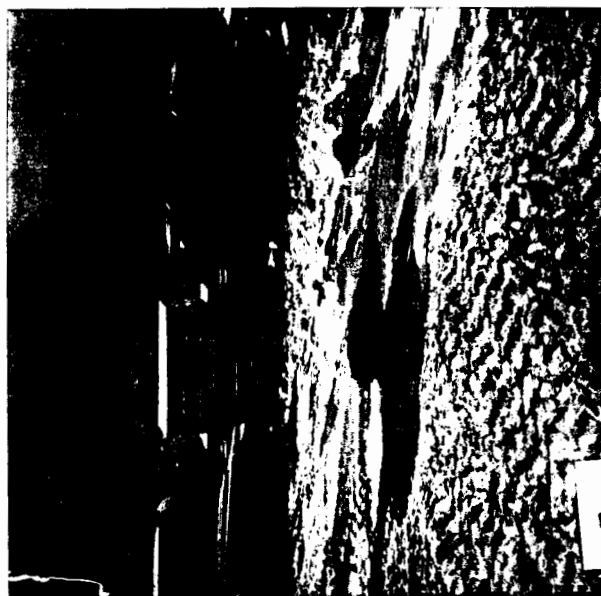


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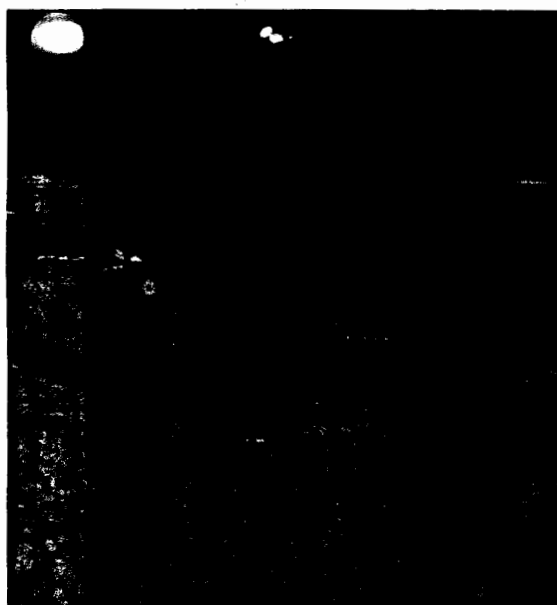
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4



ORIGINAL  
(Red)



11:29  
1-16-90

Sfm  
Camen

2



11:31  
1/16/90

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11:30  
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